COUNTY PROFILE

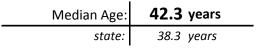
Meeker Co.

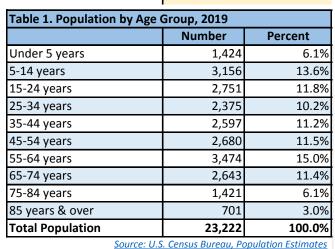
Meeker Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 6E, which is located in the Central Planning Region.

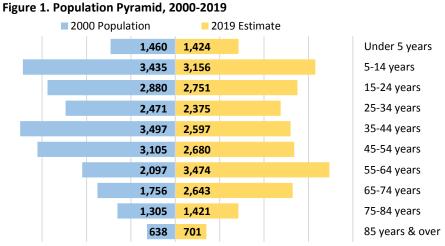
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Meeker Co.'s population has decreased so far this decade, ranking as the 46th fastest growing of the 87 counties in the state from 2010 to 2019. It is now the 43rd largest in the state. Meeker Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

Current population:	23,222 people
Population change,	-78 people
2010-2019	-0.3% decline







Meeker Co. enjoyed a natural increase - more births than deaths from 2010 to 2019, but also experienced net out-migration - meaning more people moved out than moved in. Despite suffering domestic out-migration, Meeker Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Components of Population Change, 2010-2019									
	Total		April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019						
	Population	Natural	Vital Events Net Migration				Vital Events		on
	Change	Increase	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic		
Meeker Co.	-76	493	2,539	2,046	-563	156	-719		
State of Minnesota	335,705	250,488	637,356	386,868	88,161	114,414	-26,253		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population,

Compared to the state, Meeker Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2010 to 2018, Meeker Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, which was faster than the statewide increase.

Table 3. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born	Meek	er Co.	Change 2	010-2018	Minnesota		
Population, 2018	Number Percent		Number	Percent	Percent	Change	
Foreign-born Population	466	2.0%	110	30.9%	8.4%	25.8%	
Europe	32	6.9%	9	39.1%	10.2%	4.8%	
Asia	58	12.4%	-33	-36.3%	37.7%	27.8%	
Africa	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	24.5%	61.1%	
Oceania	0	0.0%	0	#DIV/0!	0.5%	41.9%	
Americas:	376	80.7%	134	55.4%	27.1%	9.8%	
Latin America	368	79.0%	144	64.3%	24.6%	11.8%	
Northern America	8	1.7%	-10	-55.6%	2.6%	-6.0%	

2018

Europe
Asia
Africa
Oceania
Latin America

■ Northern America

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

Meeker Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2000, the county's white population increased and the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

Figure 3. Population by Race, 2018

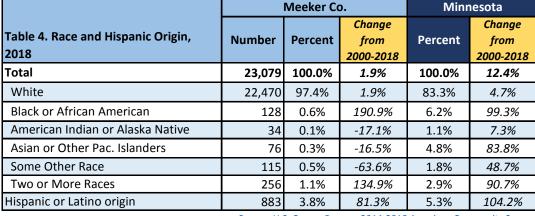


Black or African American

American Indian

Asian

Some Other RaceTwo or More Races



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

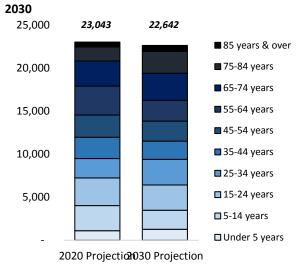
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

97.4%

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Meeker Co.'s population is expected to decline from 2020 to 2030, with a rate of change that is slower than the projected statewide growth rate (5.0%). Despite the decline, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2020-2030 2030 Numeric Percent 2020 Meeker Co. **Projection Projection** Change Change **Under 5 years** 1,114 1,284 170 15.3% 2,921 2,199 5-14 years -722 -24.7% 15-24 years 3,204 2,936 -268 -8.4% 2,251 2,985 734 25-34 years 32.6% 35-44 years 2,478 2.112 -366 -14.8% -253 45-54 years 2,581 2,328 -9.8% 55-64 years 3.367 2.420 -947 -28.1% 65-74 years 2,919 3,150 231 7.9% 75-84 years 1,634 2,537 903 55.3% 85 years & over 574 691 117 20.4% **Total Population** 23,043 -401 22,642 -1.7%

Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2020-



Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Meeker Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (92.4%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Meeker Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

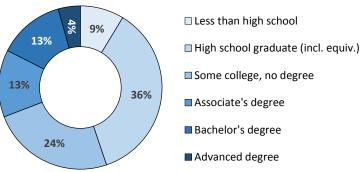
Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:

91.3%

College-educated:55.2%state:67.1%

Associate's Degree: 13.3%
Bachelor's Degree: 13.1%
Advanced Degree: 4.4%

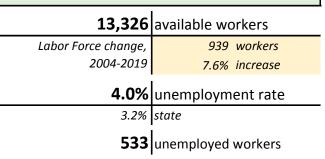
Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2018

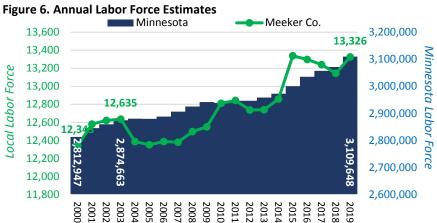


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

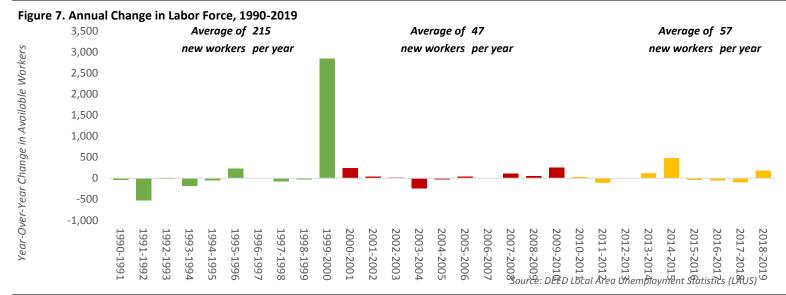
The number of workers in Meeker Co. increased over the past year. Long term, Meeker Co.'s labor force expanded more slowly from 2004 to 2019, compared to a statewide growth rate of 8.0% (see Figure 6).





Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

At 4%, Meeker Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2019. Meeker Co.'s unemployment rate increased compared to 3.5% in 2018, and was lower than the 9.5% rate posted in 2009. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Meeker Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2009.

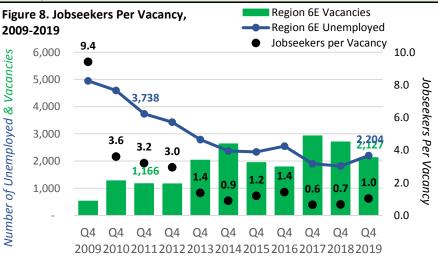


Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers from 1990 to 2000, Meeker Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a gain of new workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Meeker Co. is expected to see a labor force decline from 2020 to 2030 (see Table 6).

Table 6. Labor Force	Labor Force Projection				
Projections, 2020-2030	2020	2030			
16 to 24 years	2,017	1,899			
25 to 54 years	6,424	6,530			
55 to 64 years	2,397	1,723			
65 years & over	994	1,126			
Total Labor Force	11,831	11,278			

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

Meeker Co. is a part of Region 6E, which includes Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville County. The labor market has grown extremely tight in recent years, dropping to a ratio of 1 jobseekers per vacancy during the 4th quarter of 2019 (see Figure 8).



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

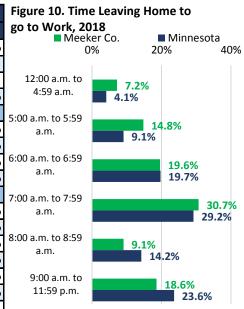
LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Meeker Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Meeker Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 85.5% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

	M	leeker Co.		Minne	esota	Meeker Co.	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
Total Labor Force	11,899	65.6%	2.7%	69.7%	3.9%	6,549	5,345
16 to 19 years	696	59.1%	5.9%	52.9%	11.7%	363	333
20 to 24 years	920	79.0%	4.9%	84.4%	6.4%	514	406
25 to 44 years	4,419	88.6%	2.8%	88.6%	3.5%	2,426	1,993
45 to 54 years	2,541	86.6%	2.0%	87.3%	2.8%	1,375	1,165
55 to 64 years	2,498	71.2%	1.5%	72.6%	3.0%	1,395	1,102
65 to 74 years	695	29.2%	2.6%	27.6%	2.4%	408	288
75 years & over	127	6.4%	0.0%	6.3%	2.6%	68	58
Employment Characteristics by Race &	Hispanic Origin					Figure 9. L	abor Force by
White alone	11,607	65.5%	2.6%	69.5%	3.3%	Race, 2018	-
Black or African American	67	62.0%	0.0%	70.7%	9.9%	•	
American Indian & Alaska Native	10	47.6%	0.0%	58.5%	12.8%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	33	55.9%	6.1%	71.3%	4.7%		
Some Other Race	60	72.3%	0.0%	77.2%	6.2%		
Two or More Races	122	83.0%	10.7%	73.1%	7.6%	•	
Hispanic or Latino	440	78.6%	0.2%	76.3%	6.5%		
Employment Characteristics by Disabilit	У						
With Any Disability	590	51.7%	8.1%	52.5%	9.0%		97.5%
Employment Characteristics by Education	onal Attainment						
Population, 25 to 64 years	9,454	82.7%	2.3%	84.2%	3.2%	White a	
Less than H.S. Diploma	466	69.9%	3.6%	65.4%	4.5%	Black or	African American
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	2,971	79.7%	2.3%	78.6%	2.6%	America	ın Indian & Alaska N
Some College or Assoc. Degree	4,110	84.3%	1.4%	85.2%	3.2%	Asian or	Other Pac. Islande
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,911	88.4%	1.3%	89.8%	1.9%	Some O	ther Race

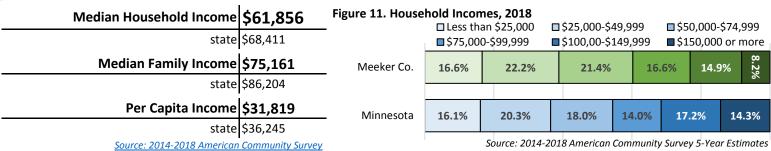
A smaller percentage of workers in Meeker Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Meeker Co. also had a longer average commute time than the state.

	Meeker	Co.	Minne	esota
Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2018	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	11,355	99.4%	2,807,811	97.5%
Worked in county of residence	6,078	53.2%	1,831,557	63.6%
Worked out of county of residence	5,278	46.2%	979,134	34.0%
Worked outside state of residence	69	0.6%	71,995	2.5%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK				
Car, truck, or van	10,464	91.6%	2,488,152	86.4%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	46	0.4%	103,673	3.6%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	400	3.5%	126,711	4.4%
Worked at home	526	4.6%	164,149	5.7%
TRAVEL TIME TO WORK				
Less than 10 minutes	2,925	25.6%	455,009	15.8%
10 to 19 minutes	2,890	25.3%	869,701	30.2%
20 to 29 minutes	2,045	17.9%	639,317	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	1,805	15.8%	564,442	19.6%
45 to 59 minutes	765	6.7%	192,947	6.7%
60 or more minutes	1,005	8.8%	158,389	5.5%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	24.2	minutes	23.5	minutes



INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Meeker Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Meeker Co. had the 22nd highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.



Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey

Meeker Co. also had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.13 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$16.23 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2019									
	Single Yearly	Hourly Wage			N	onthly Co	sts		
Single Adult, 0 children	Cost of Living		Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Trans- portation	Other	Taxes
Meeker Co.	\$29,400	\$14.13	\$0	\$328	\$166	\$597	\$763	\$260	\$336
State of Minnesota	\$30,900	\$14.86	\$0	\$335	\$137	\$759	\$629	\$336	\$379
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1	Family Yearly	Hourly Wage	Monthly Costs						
working full-time, 1 part-	Cost of Living		Child Care	Food	Health	Housing	Trans-	Other	Taxes
time), 1 child	Cost of Living	Required	Cilia Care	FOOU	Care	Housing	portation	Other	Taxes
Meeker Co.	\$50,640	\$16.23	\$229	\$751	\$659	\$807	\$892	\$437	\$445
State of Minnesota	\$55,548	\$17.80	\$511	\$764	\$484	\$986	\$729	\$537	\$618

Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Meeker Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 35th highest value of the 87 counties in 2018. Meeker Co.'s housing stock was older than the state's, with a lower percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-	Meeker	Minnesota	
occupied Housing Units, 2018	Total	Percent	Percent
Total	7,275	100.0%	100.0%
Less than \$50,000	464	6.4%	5.7%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,196	16.4%	9.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,445	19.9%	15.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,375	18.9%	19.8%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	1,593	21.9%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	929	12.8%	17.6%
\$500,000 or more	273	3.8%	6.6%
Median (dollars)	\$165,5	00	\$199,700

Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2018 0% 10% 20% 30% Meeker Co. ■ Minnesota 2010 or later 14.0% 2000 to 2009 14.6% 22.3% 1980 to 1999 26.5% 24.6% 1960 to 1979 24.8% 15.0% 1940 to 1959 14.7% 21.6% 1939 or earlier

Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage \$1,291

Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs

Percentage of Income, 2018

mortgage

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a

state 22.6%

Median monthly rent costs \$743

Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent

41.5%

state 45.9%

45.9%



9_{.9%}10.5%

15.7%

38.0%

48.2%

<u>tes</u> = 3

Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

OCCUPATIONS

At \$18.41 in 2020, wages were lower in Region 6E than the state. Overall, Region 6E had the 9th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$42.2) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$11.61) (see Table 11).

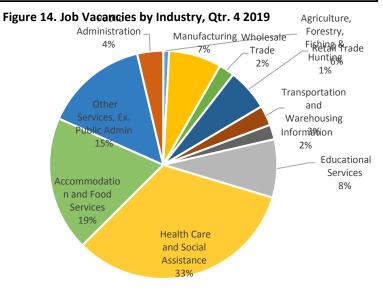
Table 11. Occupational Employment Statistics, 2020								
	Region 6E				State of Minnesota			
Occupational Group	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	State-wide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	
Total, All Occupations	\$18.41	49,370	100.0%	1.0	\$21.49	2,880,650	100.0%	
Management	\$42.20	2,120	4.3%	0.7	\$24.38	165,310	5.7%	
Business & Financial Operations	\$29.37	1,430	2.9%	0.5	\$12.43	244,300	8.5%	
Computer & Mathematical	\$30.79	470	1.0%	0.3	\$17.72	4,060	0.1%	
Architecture & Engineering	\$33.38	1,000	2.0%	1.1	\$20.03	363,800	12.6%	
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$28.80	320	0.6%	0.7	\$24.31	100,060	3.5%	
Community & Social Service	\$23.76	1,060	2.1%	1.1	\$13.65	70,290	2.4%	
Legal	\$26.24	150	0.3%	0.4	\$18.06	216,890	7.5%	
Education, Training & Library	\$19.52	5,200	10.5%	1.8	\$38.00	55,520	1.9%	
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$17.52	370	0.7%	0.6	\$28.97	104,900	3.6%	
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$29.63	2,890	5.9%	0.9	\$37.35	20,050	0.7%	
Healthcare Support	\$14.08	4,610	9.3%	1.6	\$24.52	38,540	1.3%	
Protective Service	\$18.08	780	1.6%	1.0	\$15.37	277,000	9.6%	
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$11.61	2,190	4.4%	0.5	\$23.34	57,200	2.0%	
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$14.64	1,190	2.4%	0.8	\$15.23	83,860	2.9%	
Personal Care & Service	\$13.02	1,160	2.3%	1.0	\$36.07	190,800	6.6%	
Sales & Related	\$14.40	4,520	9.2%	1.0	\$42.71	97,960	3.4%	
Office & Administrative Support	\$18.15	5,390	10.9%	0.9	\$52.70	170,650	5.9%	
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$17.21	190	0.4%	2.7	\$19.03	212,650	7.4%	
Construction & Extraction	\$24.28	1,760	3.6%	1.0	\$22.45	45,030	1.6%	
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$23.17	1,800	3.6%	1.0	\$14.81	163,160	5.7%	
Production	\$18.58	6,900	14.0%	1.9	\$33.87	171,550	6.0%	
Transportation & Material Moving	\$17.98	3,870	7.8%	1.0	\$34.35	27,070	0.9%	

Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics, Qtr. 1 2020

JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Meeker Co. is a part of Region 6E, which includes Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville County. There were 2127 job vacancies posted by employers in the 4th Quarter of 2019, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

Table 12. Region 6E Job Vacancy Survey Results, Qtr. 4 2019						
	Number of					
Occupational Group	Vacancies	Wage Offer				
Total, All Occupations	2,127	\$16.34				
Management	47	\$29.23				
Business & Financial Operations	11	7				
Computer & Mathematical	19					
Architecture & Engineering	29					
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	5	\$26.24				
Community & Social Service	126	•				
Education, Training & Library	#N/A	•				
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	137	\$16.07				
Healthcare Support	#N/A	#N/A				
Protective Service	154	\$27.34				
Food Preparation & Serving Related	123	\$14.64				
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	13	\$12.41				
Personal Care & Service	425	\$12.96				
Sales & Related	33	\$12.02				
Office & Administrative Support	195	\$11.22				
Construction & Extraction	180					
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	95	\$16.13				
Production	#N/A	#N/A				
Transportation & Material Moving	234	\$24.02				



OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

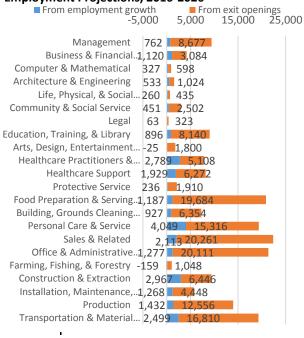
Table 13. Central Occupatio	ns in Demand, 2019		
Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Retail Salespersons	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Registered Nurses	Elementary School Teachers
\$25,362	\$48,425	\$77,526	\$57,806
Personal Care Aides	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	Nursing Assistants	Secondary School Teachers
\$26,819	\$41,149	\$35,265	\$58,086
Combined Food Preparation & Serving	Teacher Assistants	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	Software Developers, Applications
\$23,801	\$30,937	\$46,876	\$85,496
Cashiers	Carpenters	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education
\$24,482	\$50,024	\$39,870	\$32,388
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	First-Line Supervisors of Food Prep & Serving Workers	Heating, Air Cond. (HVAC) & Refrig. Mechanics	Human Resources Specialists
\$25,685	\$36,181	\$ 51,0 59	\$56,611
Janitors & Cleaners	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	Machinists	Middle School Teachers
\$29,692	\$46,676	\$49,847	\$60,055
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	Industrial Engineers
\$34,830	\$41,947	\$30,265	\$82,415
Home Health Aides	Office Clerks, General	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists
\$28,942	\$36,597	\$63,297	\$52,743
Cooks, Restaurant	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	Electricians	Nurse Practitioners
\$27,711	\$43,720	\$68,811	\$105,231
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	Customer Service Representatives	Radiologic Technologists	Financial Managers
\$26,215	\$34,038	\$62,286	\$93,620

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

Meeker Co. is a part of the Central planning region, which is projected to see a 8.6% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2016-2026							
Central Planning Region	Estimated Employment 2016	Projected Employ- ment 2026	Percent Change 2016-2026				
Total, All Industries	310,433	337,062	8.6%				
Natural Resources & Mining	4,811	4,456	-7.4%				
Utilities	2,234	2,342	4.8%				
Construction	16,522	20,503	24.1%				
Manufacturing	41,361	43,677	5.6%				
Wholesale Trade	10,237	11,189	9.3%				
Retail Trade	35,825	37,842	5.6%				
Transportation & Warehousing	10,210	11,568	13.3%				
Information	2,855	2,673	-6.4%				
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	9,306	9,502	2.1%				
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Compani	8,642	10,135	17.3%				
Administrative & Waste Services	9,834	10,892	10.8%				
Educational Services	25,717	26,325	2.4%				
Health Care & Social Assistance	47,461	56,807	19.7%				
Leisure & Hospitality	27,130	28,141	3.7%				
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	11,569	12,024	3.9%				
Public Administration	18,239	20,261	11.1%				

Figure 15. Regional Occupational **Employment Projections, 2016-2026**



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

After gaining jobs over the past year, Meeker Co. had the 46th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Meeker Co. was the 3rd fastest growing in the past year and the 22nd fastest growing since 2014. From 2014 to 2019, employers in Meeker Co. added jobs, but lagged the state's 6.3% growth rate.

621business establishments\$40,460annual average wage7,496jobs\$303,290,324total industry payrollJob change, 2014-2019488 jobs 7.0% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2004-2019

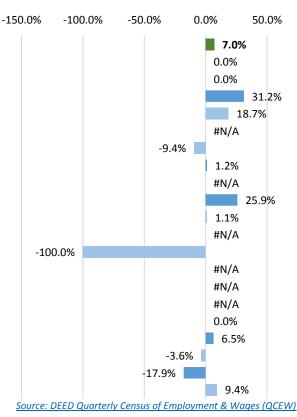


2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Source: DEED QCEW program

	1	
		Average
	-	Annual
Jobs	Total Jobs	Wage
7,496	100.0%	\$40,460
0	0.0%	#DIV/0!
0	0.0%	#DIV/0!
492	6.6%	\$52,849
1,600	21.3%	\$51,515
#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
414	5.5%	\$52,759
776	10.4%	\$26,394
#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
34	0.5%	\$40,021
180	2.4%	\$59,900
#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
0	0.0%	#DIV/0!
#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
0	0.0%	#DIV/0!
#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
1,231	16.4%	\$33,976
33	0.4%	\$17,695
456	6.1%	\$13,030
161	2.1%	\$20,338
456	6.1%	\$42,301
	0 492 1,600 #N/A 414 776 #N/A 34 180 #N/A 0 #N/A 0 #N/A 1,231 33 456 161	Jobs Total Jobs 7,496 100.0% 0 0.0% 0 0.0% 492 6.6% 1,600 21.3% #N/A #N/A 414 5.5% 776 10.4% #N/A #N/A 34 0.5% 180 2.4% #N/A #N/A 0 0.0% #N/A #N/A 0 0.0% #N/A #N/A 1,231 16.4% 33 0.4% 456 6.1% 161 2.1%

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2014-2019



For more information on Meeker Co.'s population, labor force, and economic trends, contact:

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